REMARKS

The Official Action dated December 9, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been presented in response thereto. The foregoing amendment requests the cancellation of clams 37 and 40.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection of Claims 1-12, 14-20, 21, 22-23, 25-26, 27-32, 33-35, 36, 38-39, and 41

The Action rejected claims 1-12, 14-20, 21, 22-23, 25-26, 27-32, 33-35, 36, 38-39, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Green (Pub. No. 2002/0165727 A1) in view of Katz (Pub. No. 2002/0174000 A1), and further in view of Nuemann (U.S. Patent No. 6,735,592 B1). Applicants respectfully submit the claims in their present form are allowable over the cited art.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP § 2142. Motivations to combine or modify references must come from the references themselves or be within the body of knowledge in the art. MPEP § 2143.01.

Claim 1

Claim 1 in its present form reads as follows:

A computer-implemented method for presenting a user interface for construction of an executable sequence to automate a decision-making process based on a collection of data, the method comprising:

displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process, wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a query against the collection of data, at least one of the discrete executable directives defines an analysis directive to analyze information derived from the query, and at least one of the discrete executable directives defines a distribution directive to distribute information based on analysis performed by the analysis directive; and

accepting user input to assemble a set of the discrete executable directives into a schedulable executable sequence, wherein at least one of the discrete executable directives is selected from a menu, and wherein the executable sequence comprises:

at least one discrete executable directive defining a query against the collection of data,

followed at some time by at least one discrete executable analysis directive operable to analyze information derived from the at least one discrete executable directive defining the query,

followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive.

The present Office Action refers to Green in sections 0085 and 0092 and Figure 2 as teaching "displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process."

Sections 0085 and 0092 of Green are set forth below:

[0085] The focus of EAI is primarily directed into four major categories: database linking, application linking, data warehousing and virtual systems approach. Database linking involves implementing EAIs between departmental databases for sharing information with each other and duplicating information as needed based on a set of rules. Application linking involves the enterprise sharing business processes and data between two or more applications. Data warehousing involves data being extracted

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from a variety of resources (data sources) and compiled in a specific database for analysis. This unified collection of data better supports management decision making by allowing enterprise users to view resource data from a variety of stovepipes from an enterprise perspective. Data warehouses contain a wide variety of data that present a coherent picture of business conditions for the enterprise at a single point in time. The final category of EAI is a common virtual system which involves using EAI in all aspects of enterprise computing, tying applications, resources and data together so that they appear as a unified application to a client.

[0092] In general, applications serve two primary purposes: (1) they perform routine business functions that support a business process; and (2) they access, process, and/or display data. At the highest level of abstraction, applications can then be organized by the functions they perform and the data they process. A representative diagram of an application is depicted on FIG. 2 as any of applications 202A-202N. Since an application is the building block of an information system, it can be expressed as a collection of software programs that execute user interface 204A, business rules 206A, and data access operations 208A, all of which are necessary to execute a business process. Typically, application 202A consists of a plurality of services that perform these operations. Services are any predefined, specialized results which are produced from specific software programs designed to perform explicit data processing operations when called upon. Services might be considered as either business logic services or infrastructure services. Business application services are designed and developed to provide specific computational, input/output, or data access operations when called upon at execution time, while infrastructure services provide computer platform operating systems, database management systems, or network platforms for supporting business applications.

Green describes, in the paragraphs above, applications that "perform routine business functions that support a business process," and that "access, process, and/or display data." Further, in Fig. 2, Green illustrates applications as having a user interface (e.g., 204A), business rules (e.g., 206A), and data access (e.g., 224A, 210A).

Green's description of applications does not teach or suggest "displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process" as recited in claim 1.

Green describes that an application "can be expressed as a collection of software programs that execute user interface 204A." Green, paragraph [0092]. Green's description of applications that execute user interfaces does not describe "displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process" as recited in claim 1. In fact, Green never mentions "displaying representations ... of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic."

The present Office Action refers to Katz in sections 0085, 0182 and 0217 as teaching the limitations of "at least one discrete executable directive defining a query against the collection of data," "followed at some time by at least one discrete executable analysis directive operable to analyze information derived from the at least one discrete executable directive defining the query," and "followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive."

Sections 0085, 0182 and 1217 of Katz are set forth below:

[0085] Data discovery module: This module preferably provides the user with access to an integrated view of pertinent information, which preferably includes internal data 30, external data 32, and integrated data based on computations of internal data 30 and external data 32. Data discovery module provides access to this data, so that a user may access, query, analyze and organize such data in a multitude of ways. All of the data are preferably stored in relational databases in datamart 74, organized for

querying and report generation, and represented to the user in a plurality of formats, such as tables, lists, reports, etc.

[0182] In accordance with the present invention, once the normalized data is written into discovery database 192 and analysis database 194, then the data is transmitted from analysis database 194, OLAP server 198, and OLAP analysis cubes 1-N 200 to data application components 120. In response to direct user requests or in order to process data that are needed to satisfy user requests, applications, such as modules, in services and application server 120 query analysis database 194 and OLAP database in data application components 120.

[0217] In accordance with the present invention, discovery database 192 and analysis database 194 are types of relational databases. Although both internal data 30 and external data may be loaded into discovery database 192 and analysis database 194, the data preferably is distributed between the two databases, depending on which data must be used for report generation and OLAP analysis. The data stored in discovery database 192 is preferably mirrored in analysis database 194, and thus contains the same information but is aggregated and organized in a different format. In other words, the source data is the same, but it is arranged in a different way and for different reasons. Preferably partial replication of data occurs in discovery database 192.

None of the cited excerpts from Katz disclose "followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive." More particularly, Katz's description of distributing data between two databases fails to teach or suggest this limitation as recited in claim 1. Katz, in the paragraphs set forth above, merely describes that internal and external data is distributed between discovery and analysis databases, and that this data may be mirrored in the two databases. The cited passages from Katz do not include any teaching concerning a distribution directive operable to distribute *information based on analysis*.

Because the cited references, individually or in combination, fail to describe at least one claim limitation of claim 1, i.e. the steps of "displaying representations in the user interface of a plurality of discrete executable directives encapsulating their respective logic associated with the decision-making process," and "followed at some time by at least one discrete executable distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis performed by the at least one discrete executable analysis directive," Applicants believe that claim 1 is not subject to a § 103(a) rejection and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Thus, claim 1 should be allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2-12, 14-20, and 41

Claims 2-12 and 14-20 depend on claim 1. Thus, at least for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1, claims 2-12 and 14-20 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 33 through 35

Each of system claims 33 through 35 includes the limitations discribed above in the discussion of the patentability of claim 1. Accordingly, claims 33 through 35 are also believed patentable over the cited references.
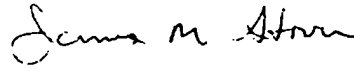
The Remaining Claims

Each of the remaining independent claims (21, 22, 27, 33, 36, and 38) in the present application reflect language regarding a distribution directive operable to distribute information based on analysis. Rather than belabor the language of each of these claims, Applicants point out that each claim recites a novel and non-obvious combination allowable over the cited art.

Similarly, the respective dependent claims 23, 25-26, 28-32, 34-35, 39, and 41 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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